If I Could Reach You

2

tMnR

If I Could Reach You 2 tMnR

I CAN KEEP REACHING OUT ALL I WANT...

...BUT OF COURSE, I'LL NEVER REACH...

FSH...

IT'S REALLY...

...LAUGH-ABLE.

Chapter 6



2

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EVERY TIME I BECOME AWARE OF JUST HOW HAPPY I AM...

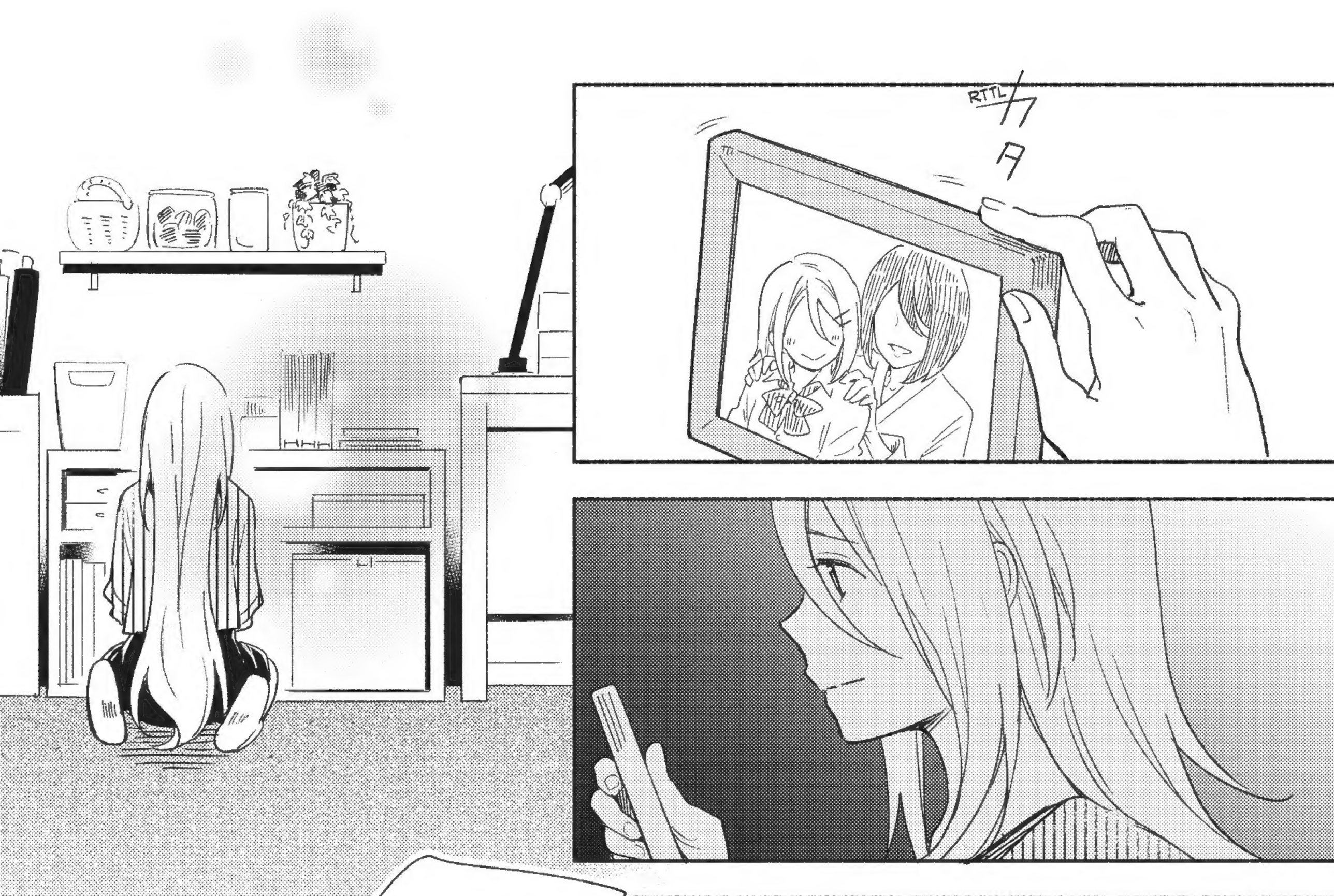
JUST WHOSE HAPPINESS...

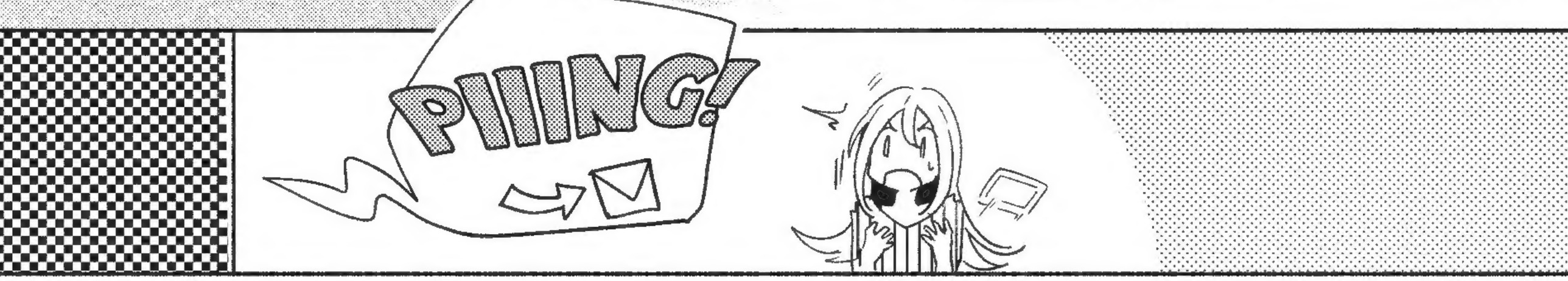
...IS THIS?

...I STOP IN MY TRACKS.


VRRRR
WIPE
WIPE
TAP
TAP

RTTL




PIIING!


WHOA!

Items Sold: 8
Order ID: 103 Creat
Pearl
Necklace
Tot
Qty 1
Order ID: 102 C
Knit Cap
Bordea
Qty 1
Order ID: 0

CLICK
カチカチ
CLICK

SO THE CRAFTING YOU'VE BEEN DOING ON THE SIDE HAS BEEN GOING WELL, HUH?

WOW!

THAT'S WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT?

EHEHE

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I SUDDENLY HAD A STEADY STREAM OF ORDERS.

SEEMS THAT WAY.

IT'S HARD FINDING FREE TIME AS A HOMEMAKER TO COMMIT TO THAT KINDA THING.

IN THE BEGINNING, I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT AT ALL.

I KNOW A LOT OF OTHER HOUSEWIVES WHO'VE TRIED CRAFTING, LIKE YOU, KAORU-CHAN...

...BUT MOST OF THEM GAVE UP WHEN THEIR ITEMS DIDN'T SELL.

HONESTLY? I STARTED CRAFTING TO RELIEVE MY STRESS, SO... MY MOTIVES AREN'T ALL THAT PURE.

Knitting is great for that, super relaxing.

...THOUGH I'M SURE THAT PEOPLE WOULD KILL ME FOR SAYING THAT.

SO, I DON'T RECALL IT EVER BEING TOO STRESS-FUL...

Everyone who's struggled, that is.

AND THEN I GOT SO INTO IT THAT IT EVENTUALLY BECAME SELLABLE.

BUT SOON ENOUGH, IT BECAME FUN.

STILL, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GOT SOME RESULTS ONCE YOU KEPT AT IT.

WHEN YOU PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE AND BUILD SOMETHING LITTLE BY LITTLE-

AH, NOT EX-ACTLY.

NOTHING IN THIS WORLD COULD BE BETTER THAN SUCCESS WITHOUT A STRUGGLE.

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU'RE HAPPY!

THAT'S GOOD.

WHEN I'M STUCK IN MY OWN HEAD, IT GETS HARD TO TELL, HAHA.

Oh.

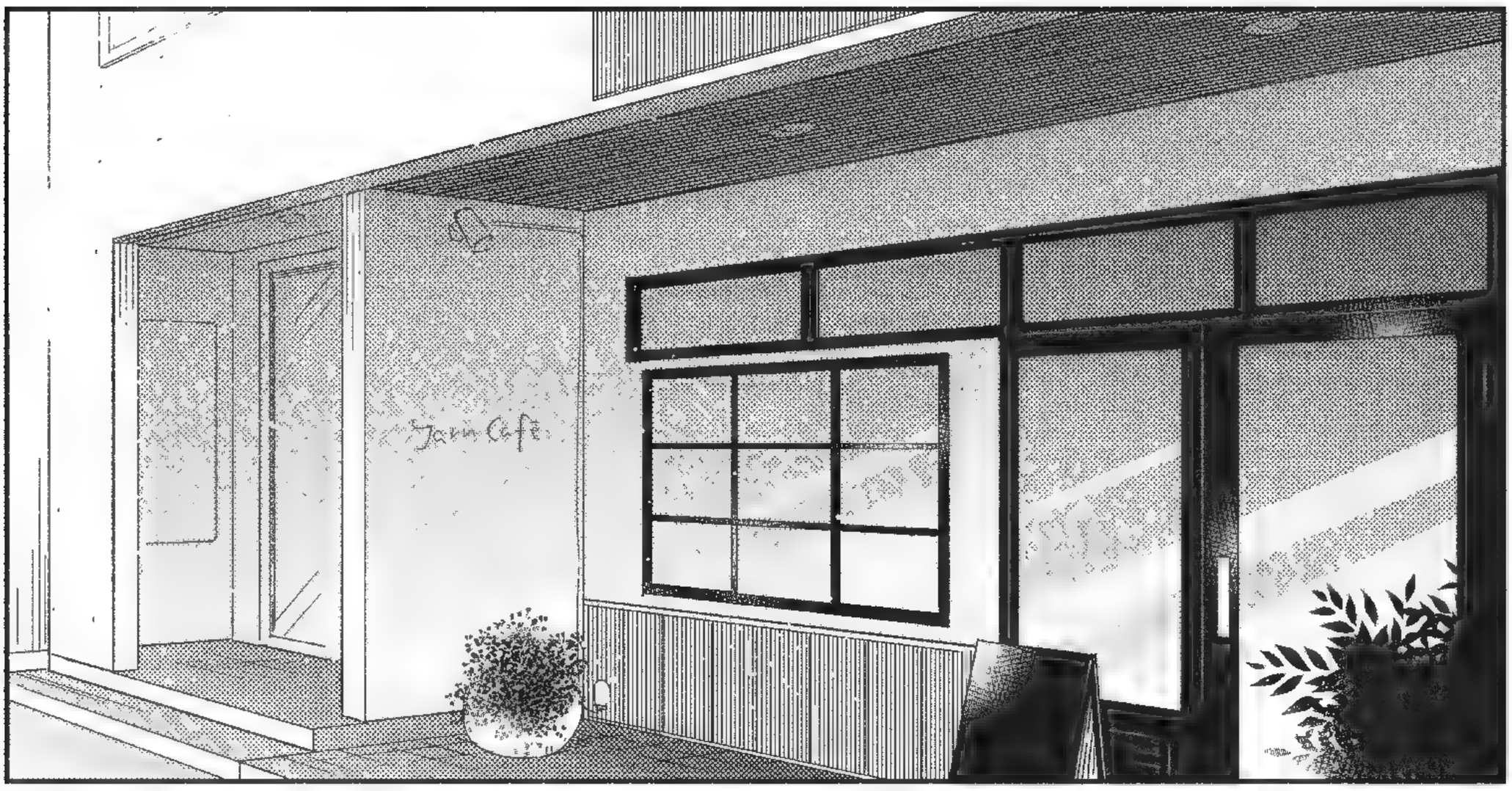
DO I SEEM HAPPY, THEN?

YOU DO! SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT CLEAR SKIES SINCE YOU GOT MARRIED.

カラン JANGLE

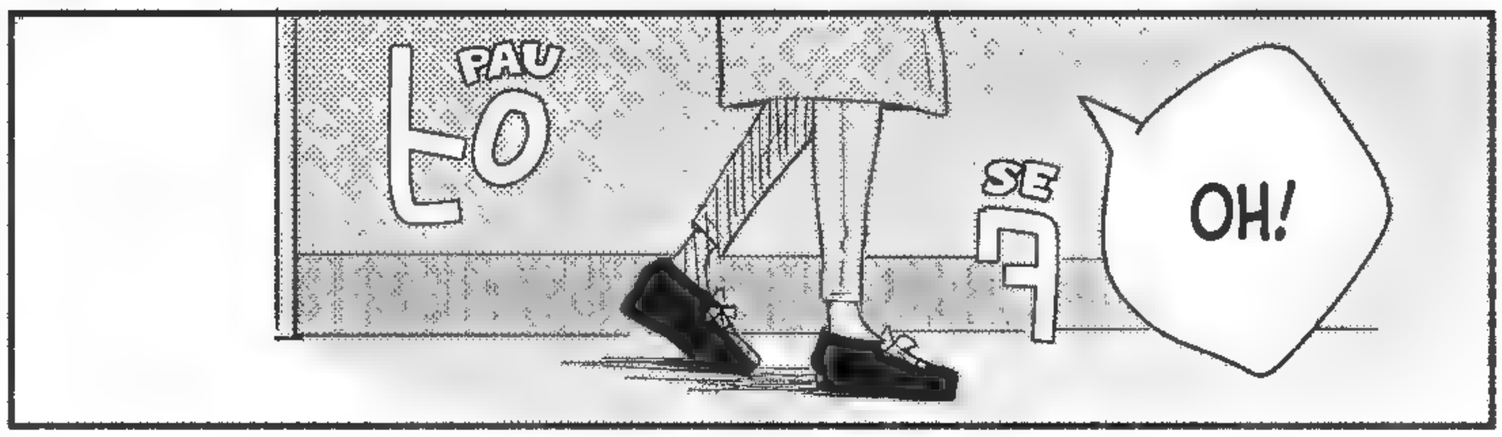
カラン JANGLE

WEL-COME!


Jam Cafe


Okay!
GREAT WORK TODAY!
I'M HEADING OUT NOW!


I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE DISCUSSED EARLIER.
OF COURSE. WHAT'S UP?


PAU
TO
SE
RU
OH!


BY THE WAY, MANAGER, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

IT'S JUST...

LATELY, I'VE BEEN STUCK ON THIS ONE THOUGHT...

I, UH... HADN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD...

WHOA!

ARE YOU AIM-ING TO GO PRO, THEN?

I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN THINKING THAT I MIGHT WANT TO FOCUS ON MY CRAFTS FULL-TIME FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

SO I WAS WONDER-ING IF I COULD GET YOU TO CUT BACK MY SHIFTS START-ING NEXT MONTH...

IS THERE...

...ANYTHING I'VE EVER *CHOSEN* FOR MYSELF?

THAT'S A PRETTY VAGUE REASON TO DO SOME-THING, HUH?

ER.

What am I saying?

SO, AT LEAST ONCE...

...I'D LIKE...

...TO...

THAT SOUNDS LOVELY. I'M ROOTING FOR YOU.

OF COURSE.





?

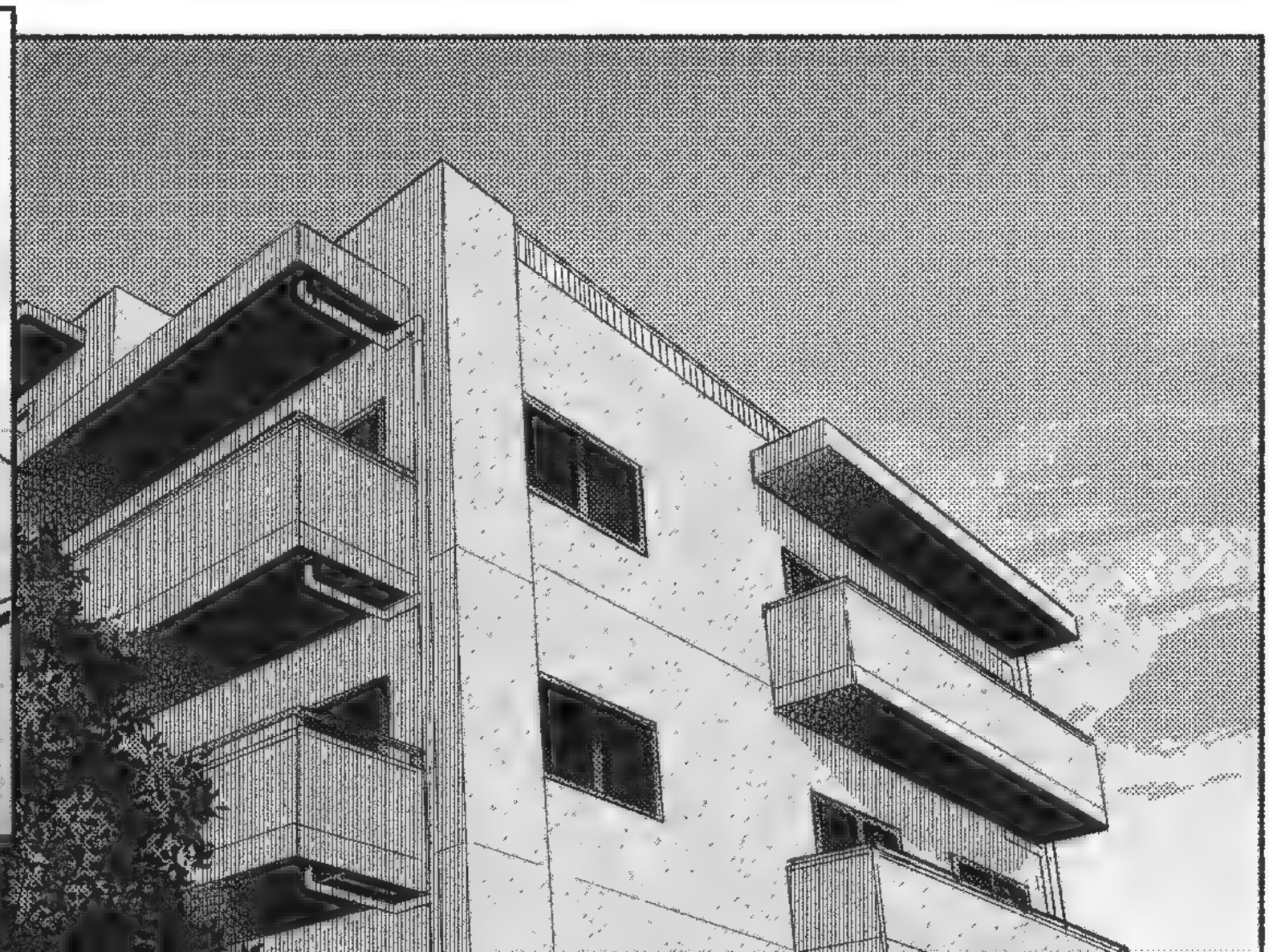
OH, MANAGER! YOU'RE AS GENEROUS AS MOTHER EARTH!

IT'S FINE. WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE, KAORU-CHAN?

I'M SORRY. YOU ALWAYS SPOIL ME!

THANK YOU SO MUUUCH!

WORKSHOP



KNOCK KNOCK

DING!

I SUDDENLY GOT A LOT OF ORDERS COMING IN.

YOU'VE BEEN MAKING A LOT OF THOSE LATELY.

Heya.

OH,

YOU'RE IN HERE AGAIN.

OH! SORRY, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BACK. WELCOME HOME!

I HAD SO MUCH FUN MAKING THAT NECKLACE I GAVE YOU, AND WELL, BEFORE I KNEW IT...

HEH. WELL, IT'S NOT SO BAD WHEN YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU LOVE.

WHA ?!

CAN YOU REALLY MAKE ALL THESE ON YOUR OWN?

THAT SOUNDS ROUGH...

POP

I DID INDEED!

YEAH!

HUH?! WAIT A MINUTE, YOU *MADE* THAT?!

YEAH.

WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SURPRISINGLY" ?

WOW, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY DEXTEROUS!

HANG ON...

SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE KIND OF A GENIUS...

GUH... ABOUT THAT...

I HAVE A FEAR OF SHARP OBJECTS, SO I CAN'T HELP IT...

WELL, I MEAN... YOUR KNIFE-HANDLING SKILLS ARE PRETTY ATROCIOUS ...

...AND THAT CEMENTED MY IMPRESSION OF YOU AS CLUMSY...

...

...WHICH HELPS ME OUT A LOT.

IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER COOK...

I WANT TO HELP OUT ANY WAY I CAN.

DON'T YOU WANT TO GET IN A LITTLE MORE WORK?

OKAY! THEN MAYBE I'LL MAKE US DINNER TONIGHT!

HUH?!

I'M SUCH A LUCKY ONEE-CHAN!

WAIT A—!

Thank yoooou!

WAAAH, I HAVE SUCH A SWEET LITTLE SISTER!!!

HABIT? IT'S MORE OF AN INSTINCT BY NOW...

GEEZ... DON'T YOU THINK THIS HUGGING HABIT OF YOURS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND?

WORK

OH!

I see...

FIND ANYTHING YET?

NO.

I MADE A LOT OF CALLS, BUT I WAS SHOT DOWN...

AH... YEAH.

I WAS THINKING I COULD STAND FOR A CHANGE OF PACE...

ARE YOU...

...LOOKING FOR A JOB?

GRAB

I'VE GOT A STORE RECOMMENDATION FOR YOU!

IN THAT CASE...

HMM...

WE ACTUALLY HAVE ENOUGH STUDENT WORKERS ALREADY.

I SEE...

I UNDER-

...BUT THERE'S JUST NO SPACE FOR IT AT THE MOMENT...

I'm sorry.

I WOULD LOVE TO HIRE YOU BASED ON KAORU-CHAN'S REFER-ENCE...

TCH. I WAS GONNA HAVE HER MAKE ME SOMETHIN' SWEET...

HM? THAT VOICE...

I BELIEVE SHE'S OFF TODAY, ACTUALLY.

WEL-COME HOME.

Could you please knock...?

KA-CHAK

ガチャ

HEY, IS MIYABI IN?

BA-DUMP!

...UTA?

KURO-CHAN?!

HMM...

Sounds uncool.

WELL, WE'RE JUST WRAPPING UP, THOUGH...

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M HAVING A JOB INTER-VIEW...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

OH! IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?

I DID THINK THE SCHOOL SOUNDED FAMILIAR...

C'MERE A MINUTE.

...HEY, MANAGER.

SWIP

SWIP

YOU'RE HIRED.

PEEK

TMP TMP TMP スタスタ--

?

Aha— ha.

UM... SO YES, THERE YOU HAVE IT, THEN...

KURO-CHAN, WHAT DID YOU DO...?!

HUH?! WAIT A-!

SEE YA.

Hmm...

SCRTCH

SCRTCH

THE MEMORY OF YOU TURNING ME DOWN IS STILL PRETTY FRESH IN MY MIND...

It was like 2 pages ago!

A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

OH

AH

BUT IF I WAS BEING HONEST, THAT GAZE OF HERS TERRIFIES ME...

SO YOU COULD SAY I'M IN NO POSITION TO DEFY HER...

I SEE...

I feel that.

ANYWAY I'D LIKE TO GET YOU STARTED ON YOUR FIRST TASK AT ONCE.

What? Already?!

NO...

...THE PLEA-SURE'S ALL MINE.

I'M A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MANAGER, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

ペコ BOW

ペコ BOW

THAT GIRL'S FAMILY OWNS THIS BUILDING.

INFORMATIO

9F

8F

7F

6F

5F

4F

3F

2F

1F

...OF COURSE.

She's been peeking in this whole time...

YOUR WORRYWART OF A BIG SISTER IS BACK THERE. COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE HER HOME?

Geez, I was so flustered!

OHO.

I GAVE UTA-CHAN A REFERRAL AT THE PLACE I WORK PART-TIME.

YOU TWO GO SOME-WHERE?

...

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

...AND THEY NEED A REPLACE-MENT FOR ME, ANYWAY, SO IT'S A HUGE HELP.

SHE CAN BE AT EASE WORKING AT A PLACE LIKE THAT...

SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE JUST DOING WHAT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

IF IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'LL BE A GOOD FIT, THEN IT'S FINE IF YOU WANNA TURN IT DOWN RIGHT AWAY...

No waaay! That wasn't my intention...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, UTA-CHAN?

H...

AND ALSO...

...IT SEEMS LIKE MY FRIEND HAD A HAND IN GETTING ME IN THERE.

So I better work hard!

I'M SUPER EXCITED!

THE PLACE SEEMS COZY, AND THE MANAGER IS REALLY NICE.

So, that woman was Kaoru-san...

18:02

...srsly? What a small world.

18:03

KURO-CHAN WAS SURPRISED, TOO.

YEAH.

OH, THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER!

WOW, SO SHE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS, HUH?

WAIIIT, HOW COME?

...Are you saying blunders are the norm for me...?

MM...

WELL, I THINK IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

EVEN IF YOU'VE SLIPPED UP A BIT, I'M SURE IT WASN'T TOO WEIRD.

Hmm-mmmm.

OH, NO... I HOPE SHE HASN'T GOTTEN A WEIRD IMPRESSION OF ME.

THAT'S BECAUSE I TALK ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME, ONEE-CHAN!

GASP

WELL, TRY NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TOO ODD ABOUT... ME...

IS THAT SO...?

MM? I GUESS... SO?

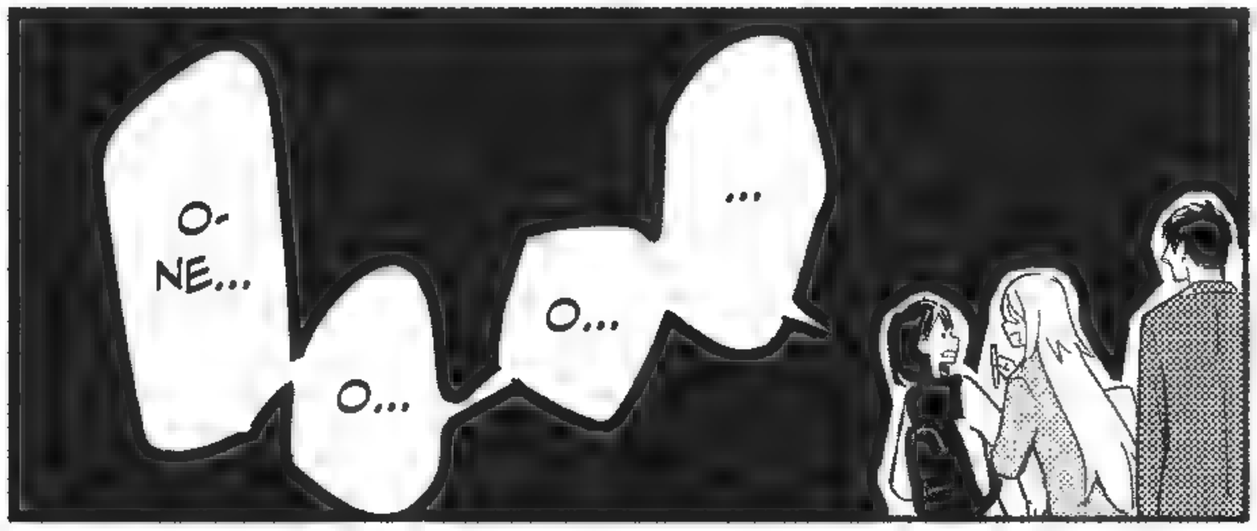
DID YOU JUST CALL ME "ONEE-CHAN" FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT CASU-ALLY?!

WHOA !!!

WHOA WHOA WHOO-OOA?!


SLIP


GOTTA RECORD THIS FOR POSTER-ITY!!!
Why?
SAY IT AGAIN!
AGAIN!


O-NE...
O...
O...
...


WHAT?
WELL, IT'S A LOT HARDER TO SAY IF YOU PUT ME ON THE SPOT!


It has to be natural...



I BOUGHT ICE CREAM. WANT SOME?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOUR FAVORITE WAS, THOUGH, SO I JUST BOUGHT ONE I LIKED.

AH...

OKAY, I'LL HAVE SOME...

...?

GWIP

BUT IT'S DELICIOUS. (READ BETWEEN THE LINES!)

?

NO THANKS, I'D JUST GET COLD.

It's chilly out.

...

IT'S KINDA WEIRD...

...FOR YOU TO BE SO NICE TO ME.

SHIINE

...?!

Mmm! Mmm!

Heh.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING THAT.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEING WEIRD, UTA-CHAN.

Thanks for the treat.

Rude...

YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE LATELY, LIKE OVERLY CHEERY.

I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU AREN'T ACTUALLY...

...DOING AS WELL AS YOU SEEM.

HUH...?

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT BEING CHEERFUL DOESN'T SUIT ME?

WHA ?!

GRAB



...SO, ON THE OTHER HAND...

KA...

OW!

PINCH

SQUEEEEEZE

...THINK-I...

TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS...

...WELL, ACTU-ALLY, IT WAS...

...I SEE.

GRIN

...BUT IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD, DEAREST BROTHER.

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME...

UTA, YOU AND...

WELL, THEN, I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND ASK YOU.

ito

PAT

IT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT.

NEVER MIND...

STAND

GO BRUSH YOUR TEETH AND GET SOME SLEEP.

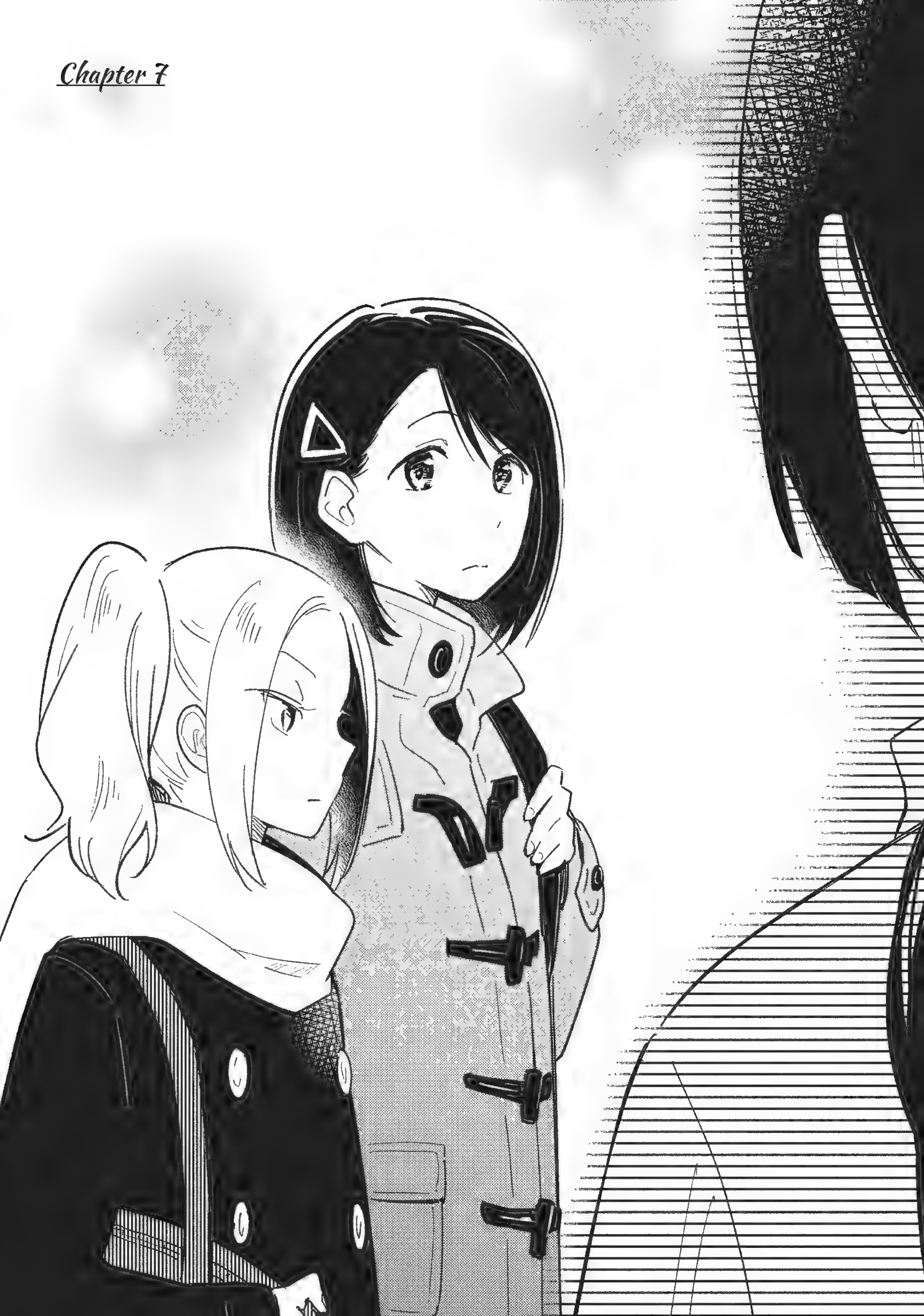
G'NIGHT.

CLACK

If I Could Reach You

If I Could Reach You

Chapter 7



Books

Heartwarming Winter
Love Stories

Books

THAT LOOKS LIKE...

OUT SHOP-PING?

YEAH. WE'VE GOT FINALS COMING UP, SO I THOUGHT I'D PICK UP SOME STUDY GUIDES...

VRRRR

Thanks for your business!

O-ONEE-CHAN...

WAH!

UTA-CHAN! ♪

TMP

THAT AND GET CAUGHT UP IN...

YOUNG LOVE...

AM I? I THINK I'M PRETTY AVERAGE...

AH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A HARD WORKER!

REALLY? ALL I DID IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MESS AROUND.

Aha-ha.

Books

...IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE, UTA-CHAN?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

SO SPILL IT—ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME? YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, AFTER ALL!

EH EH?

WHAT... ARE YOU...

HM, IN FACT, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT RELATION-SHIPS.

MM...

I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF THING.

SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT YET.

TH...

HMM...

THAT'S SURPRISING, CONSIDERING HOW MANY ROMANCE NOVELS YOU SEEM TO READ.

Wai-!

I saw you!

SNATCH

THOSE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS...

I LIKE THESE BECAUSE WATCHING A HAPPY ENDING UNFOLD FILLS ME WITH JOY.

GLANCE

OOH, I TOTALLY GET THAT.

THOUGH FOR SOME, SALVATION IS SOMETHING THEY CAN GET IN THEIR OWN FAIRY TALES...

SQUEEZE

HM?

WHAT'S UP?

MM, IT'S NOTHING.

Welcome home.

OH, YOU'RE HOME EARLY TODAY, REIICHI-KUN.

ACTUALLY I'M JUST DROPPING IN. I'M HEADIN' OUT ON BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT WEEK.

I'M HOME!

KA

CHAK

SORRY. IT WAS DECIDED PRETTY LAST MINUTE.

WHAAAT?! YOU NEVER SAID ANY-THING ABOUT THIS.

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK.

I WAS THINK-ING WE COULD GO SOME-WHERE THIS WEEK-END.

OF COURSE WE'LL GET ALONG. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

I'LL BE BACK AT THE START OF NEXT WEEK.

YOU AND UTA TRY AND GET ALONG.

PAT

PAT

GWAH

WELL, I HOPE SO...

WOBBLE

H...
HUH?

WHOA.

HEY,
YOU
OKAY?

SORRY, I
JUST GOT A
LITTLE DIZZY
THERE.

I KNOW
THAT THINGS
ARE GOING
WELL WITH
YOUR WORK,
BUT DON'T TRY
TO RAMP IT UP
TOO FAST.

YOU'LL
END UP
LIKE YOUR
MOTHER.

...I'LL BE
CAREFUL.

...HAPPY...

I'M SO...

SIGH...

GLOOOM

HAA-AHH...

You're gonna let all of your happiness escape.

DON'T SEE YOU SIGHING VERY OFTEN, KURO-CHAN.

MM...

THOSE TESTS WE'VE GOT COMING UP ARE DRAG-GING ME DOWN.

OH AH

IS THERE SOMETHING SERIOUS BOTHERING YOU...?

UH, WHAT'S UP?

GLOOOM

IT'S A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR ME!

That's surprisingly normal of you.

WHAT? IS THAT ALL?

IS THERE SOME SUBJECT YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH?

HONESTLY? ALL OF THEM.

...

...SOMEONE WHO SEEMS HOPELESS AT SCHOOL, BUT ACTUALLY GETS GOOD GRADES...?

I'VE ALWAYS PICTURED YOU AS...

COME ON, NOW, IT CAN'T BE ALL *THAT* BAD, CAN IT?

ヒ-ロ

FWIP!

Previous Test Results

Hm.

LAST TIME, MY DAD CHEWED ME OUT.

SAID THAT IF I GOT THOSE KINDS OF GRADES AGAIN, HE WOULDN'T LET ME LIVE ON MY OWN ANYMORE.

?!

W... WORST-RANKED IN OUR GRADE...?!

Yes.

SHE REALLY IS A CAT...

STAAAAND... STAAAAND...

HAVING MY FREEDOM SNATCHED AWAY IS THE ONE THING I CAN'T STAAAAAND!

UGGGH!

IF IT'S STUDYING, I THINK I COULD HELP A BIT.

You're breaking character...

IF YOU'D LIKE, I COULD TEACH YOU?

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOUR GRADES ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE THE TOP FIVE, AREN'T THEY...?

WELL... I DO PUT IN A LOT OF WORK TO KEEP RECEIVING MY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

GAZE...

...

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

MY, HOW POLITE.

BOW!

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

IT'S ALL THANKS TO MIYABI-CHAN BEING SO DILIGENT IN SHOWING ME THE ROPES.

I HAVE.

YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN THE HANG OF THIS!

I SUPPOSE MIYABI DIDN'T WANT TO BE TOO MUCH LIKE HER PARENTS!

AS A MARRIED COUPLE, WE'RE ***BOTH*** LIKE THIS AT HOME.

SUPER LAX

I SEE. I UNDER-STAND NOW...

SHE IS SUCH A HELP, ISN'T SHE? CONSCIEN-TIOUS AND RELIABLE.

THAT'S MY LITTLE GIRL!

HUP TWO

HUP TWO

AN OBSESSED MOTHER... ACTUALLY, SHE'S JUST A SOFTIE...

...THEY DON'T REALLY CLING TO YOU OR ASK FOR MUCH, SO IT'S A BIT LONELY FOR ME.

STILL...

...WHEN YOUR KID'S SO PUT TO-GETHER...

HOLD IT, MANA-GER!

MAYBE SHE'S OKAY WITH BEING SPOILED BY SOMEONE ELSE. I SURE HOPE SO...

JINGLE JINGLE

PLEASE COME HELP ME INSTEAD OF CHIT-CHATTING!

AH, Y-YES, RIGHT AWAY...

THE ORDERS ARE PILING UP!

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY STARTIN' TO LOOK THE PART.

EHEHE, AM I?

TWITCH

WELCOME, KURO-CHAN!

Oh!

HEY, YO.

MIYABI.

WH...

WHAT IS IT?

GIMME THE USUAL.

...

AGAIN...?

STARE

It's feeding time.

WHO CARES? IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL, ISN'T IT?

Every single day!

IF YOU STUFF YOUR FACE WITH NOTHING BUT SWEETS ALL THE TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO GET SICK!

SHUT UP AL-READY.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IF I COLLAPSE OR WHATEVER.

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE...

NO, IT ISN'T!

YOUR FATHER ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOUR DIETARY HEALTH!

GRR

?

Tch.

HEY, UTA!

Don't click your tongue!

UM, SORRY, KURO-CHAN. I'M HONORED, BUT I'M STILL NOT ALLOW-ED IN THE KITCHEN, SO...

And mine, alone!

MIYABI'S HOLDIN' OUT ON ME, SO YOU'RE MY SWEETS SUPPLIER NOW!

THAT'S MEAN!

PSH, YOU'RE ALL USELE...

21 DEGREES

HAVE YOU TWO KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE, THEN?

...

WHAT OF IT?

I MEAN IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE HALF A YEAR.

I JUST THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE...

...SOMEONE THAT YOU'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME.

IT'S JUST THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU GET SO FRIENDLY WITH SOMEONE, CHLOE.

OH... IT'S NOTHING...

So, uh, what of it?

?

Oh.

BY THE WAY...

WHERE SHOULD WE DO THE STUDYING THING?

?

ANYWHERE SHOULD BE FINE, AS LONG AS IT'S QUIET.

WHAT IS SHE EVEN LEARNING DURING CLASS?

HOW 'BOUT MY PLACE, THEN?

IT'S ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING.

WOW, IS IT?

THEN MAYBE I'LL DROP IN AS SOON AS WORK'S DONE.

'KAY.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN!

SEE YA.

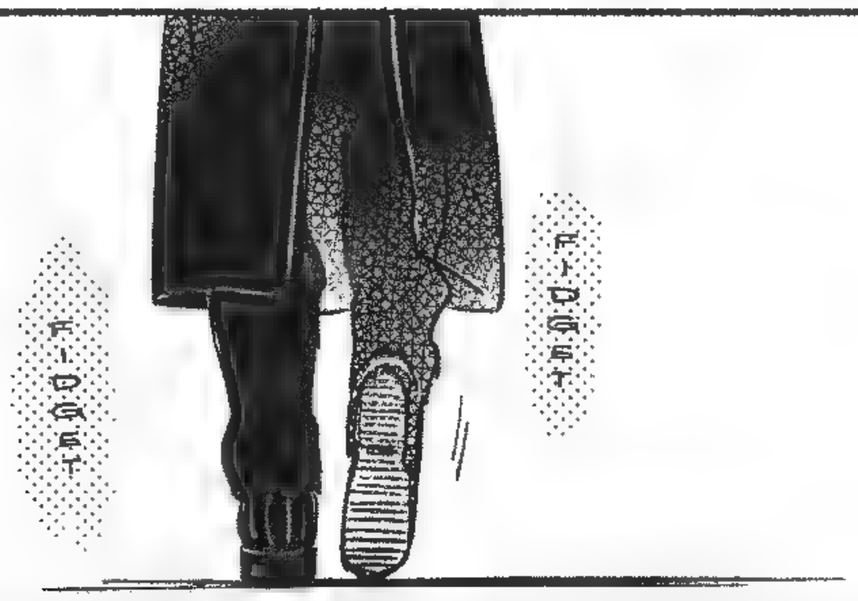
U- UM...

UTA- SAN...

ON KURO-CHAN'S REQUEST.

YEAH, I'M HELPING HER WITH SOME TEST PREP.

ARE YOU TWO HAVING SOME KIND OF STUDY GROUP...?



HUH... SHE ASKED YOU...?

YEAH... PROBABLY.

I WAS DEFINITELY SURPRISED TO LEARN HOW BAD HER RANKING WAS...

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME, GIVEN... CHLOE'S ACADEMIC ABILITIES.

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

BUT...

I'M GLAD TO HAVE HER RELYING ON ME FOR ONCE...

..SO I'LL AT LEAST GIVE IT A GO!

DA-DING

GREAT WORK TODAY!

CLOS

EVENIN'.

Kaoru-san

Reiichi-kun is leaving for a week starting today. Gonna be just us two for a little while!

- Kaoru

HEY, KURO-CHAN.

WHAT?

...DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

WHAT IF I ASKED TO CRASH HERE FOR A BIT, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF A STUDYING BOOT CAMP? WOULD THAT BE ANNOYING?

STEP!...

OH! MIYABI-SAN.

GOOD WORK TO...

UM...

Wo...

WOULD IT BE OKAY...

...IF I JOINED YOU, TOO...?

If I Could Reach You

If I Could Reach You

YAWWN...

DA—

DING

Unusual for her.

OH.

GUESS UTA-CHAN'S NOT COMING HOME, EITHER.

FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ALONE IN A WHILE...

Chapter 8



DING

9

KA-CHK

TP
TP...

THANKS FOR HAVING US.

I'll make some tea.

GO ON AND HAVE A SEAT OVER THERE.

Thanks!

'KAY.

TNK

TNK

TNK

...

OH, JUST A SEC.

HEY, MIYABI, WHERE'D YOU PUT THE TEA...?

Look, right here. I told you it was on this shelf, didn't I?

YOUR PLACE IS A LOT CLEANER THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

YOU DON'T SEEM AT ALL SELF-RELIANT.

YOU ARE SERIOUSLY RUDE.

I figured I wouldn't even have any space to walk.

And here I was thinking I'd been wrong about you...

MIYABI ALWAYS COMES AND CLEANS THE PLACE UP, EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER ASKED HER.

...AND TO ASK HOW THINGS WERE GOING, BUT...

I MEAN, AT FIRST, I WAS JUST COMING UP TO TAKE CARE OF THE RENT...

NO, I REALLY AM DOING IT OF MY OWN ACCORD.

...IF SHE'S BEEN STRONG-ARMING YOU, YOU KNOW YOU CAN REFUSE, RIGHT?

WHISPER

One Month Later

CLUTTER...

KURO-CHAN...

SO REALLY YOU'RE JUST A BUSY-BODY...

SEEING HER PLACE DESCENDING INTO CHAOS BEFORE MY VERY EYES MADE IT HARDER AND HARDER TO LEAVE THINGS ALONE.

SO, I COME AROUND PERIODI-CALLY TO CLEAN UP.

WHAT'D YOU TAG ALONG FOR, ANYWAY, MIYABI?

OH YEAH, SO...

HUH?

NO WAY, I NEED UTA TO GIVE ME HER UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

UH...

...I WAS THINKING I'D HAVE UTA-SAN HELP ME WITH MY STUDIES, TOO...

UM.

WELL...

I DON'T THINK THEY'D COVER THE SAME TOPICS IN DIFFERENT CLASS YEARS, THOUGH.

EVEN IF WE GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, I'M SURE EXAMS WOULD COVER SIMILAR SUBJECTS.

I DON'T REALLY MIND.

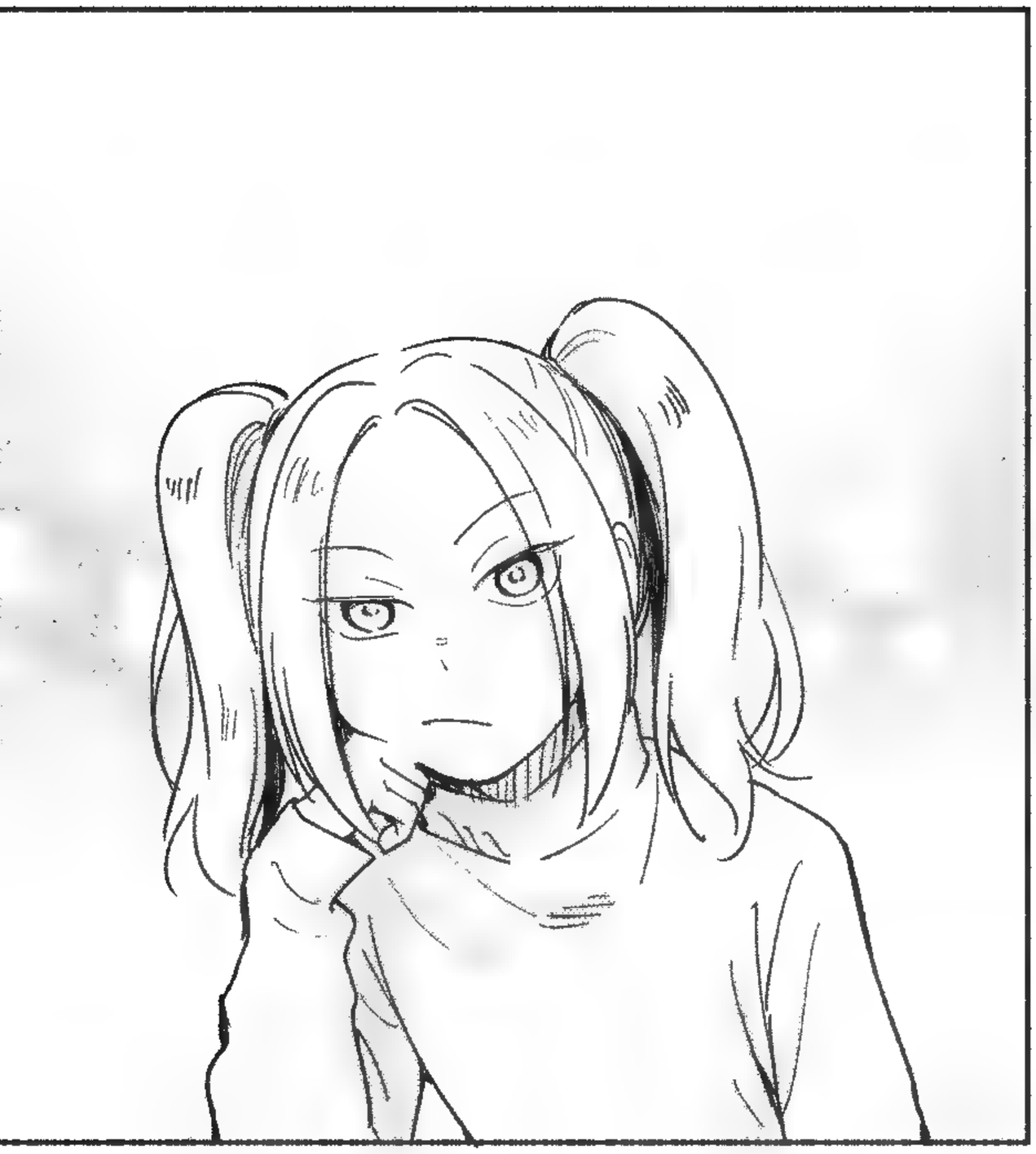
AH... NO, A BIT YOUNGER. I'M A SECOND YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH...

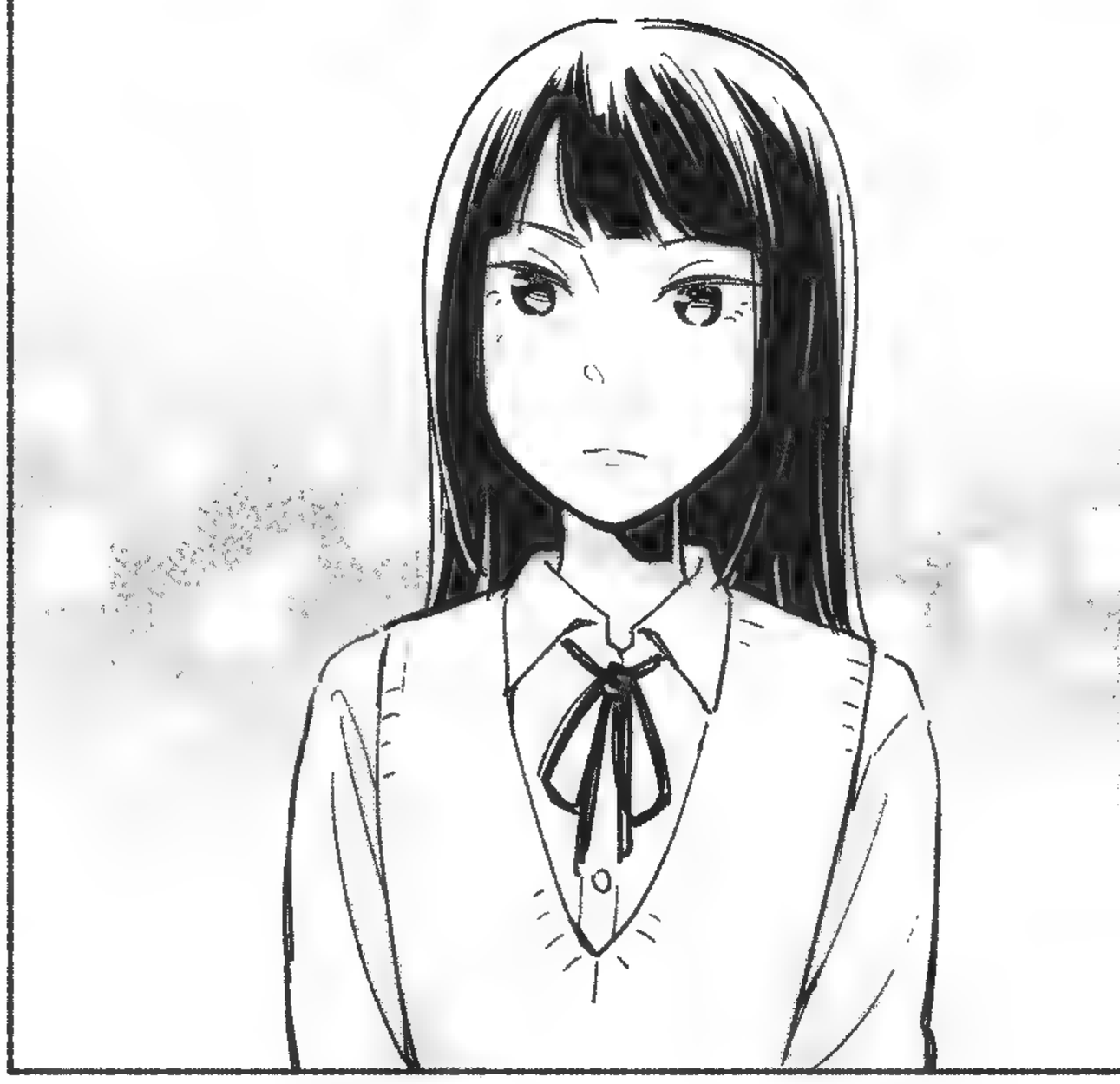
JUNIOR HIGH?!

HUH?

A FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL?

BUT MIYABI-CHAN, AREN'T YOU THE SAME AGE AS US?






IT DEFINITELY SEEMS LIKE YOU AND KURO-CHAN ARE TOTALLY REVERSED!
Hmm hm.
IN WHAT WAY?!




I THINK THAT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COVER MIDDLE SCHOOL TOPICS.
SO, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DON'T GET, JUST ASK.
THANK YOU.

THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE...

HONESTLY, IT'S A WONDER SHE'S SOME-HOW NEVER BEEN HELD BACK A YEAR...

LV 2

LV 6

KURO-CHAN, I THINK YOU SHOULD START OVER FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

START NOW, AND YOU MIGHT CATCH UP IN TIME...

In terms of size, as well.

Gimme some praise, would'ja?

SHUT UP.

ALSO, THAT'S ACTUALLY THE BEST I'VE DONE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

WHY DOES SHE SEEM PROUD OF THAT?

GLOOOMooo

THIS IS BAD, THOUGH. THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE BEYOND MY CAPABILITIES...

DING DONG

AH... WELL...

IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU'VE MADE SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER YOUR PREVIOUS SCORES, RIGHT?

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!

HEHEH

NAH, I'VE GOT FAITH IN YOU, SO...

I DECLARED THAT I WOULDN'T FAIL *ANY* OF MY TESTS. THAT'LL SHOW 'EM!

I CAME TO RETURN SOMETHING. IS CHLOE IN?

OH!

HEY, UTACCHI!

Don't just let yourself in!

WHY IS *SHE* JOIN-ING US, TOO?!

WHOA!

SHE MIGHT... HELP?

?

IS SHE A SAVIOR, OR JUST AN INTER-LOPER...?

Oh... These cookies are delicious...

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH TEST PREP?

LEAVE IT TO ME!

GRMF/

SURE, SURE.

SLIDE

SLIDE

BUT I ALWAYS GET THE BEST MARKS IN OUR GRADE, Y'KNOW...

WHY WON'T YOU RELY ON MEEE?!

SURE, SURE.

I KINDA ALREADY GUESSED WHAT'LL BE ON IT, SO I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT ...

HUH? WAIT!

HERE'S SOME COOKIES, NOW GO HOME.

NGUH!

SURE, SU...

SLI...

NOW THEN...

...TRY TO MEMORIZE THE PARTS I HIGH-LIGHTED.

OH MY GOD, THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU FOR-GOOOT ?!

WOW...

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO GIFTED, KONATSU.

IT ALSO MADE MY TEACHERS OVERLOOK MY PREVIOUS BEHAVIOR...

...WHICH WAS SUPER LUCKY.

I'll be more careful!

AT LEAST IT BOOSTED MY GRADES, I GUESS!

EHEH...

WHILE I WAS OUT OF SCHOOL LAST YEAR, I HAD SO MUCH FREE TIME... SO I JUST STUDIED!

IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT ADULTS...

...FAVOR PAWNS WITH PROMISE. SO MUCH THAT IT'S LAUGHABLE, REALLY.

Waaaah

It feels like I'm getting hives.

SHUDDER...

IT'S JUST... SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE MY BODY IS REJECTING...

...THE VERY IDEA OF BEING TAUGHT BY YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG, CHLOE?

YOU'RE SHAK-ING.

IN THAT CASE...

LET'S STUDY A LITTLE SOMETHING ELSE TO GET YOUR BODY USED TO ME, FIRST! ♥

HUH?

GRAB!

...

NGAAAH! DON'T TOUCH ME, IDIOT!

OH.

SORRY FOR THE RUCKUS.

HRFF

HFF

E-hem!

He-hem!

BY THE WAY, WHO IS THIS GIRL?

I don't know her...

You just noticed?

...HER FAMILY OWNS THE CAFÉ ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

WE'RE...

...JUST ACQUAIN-TANCES RIGHT NOW.

OH!

YOU'RE CHLOE'S-

ACQUAIN-TANCE.

ZWUP

I SHOULD BE GETTING HOME NOW.

THANKS FOR HAVING ME.

AT AT AT...

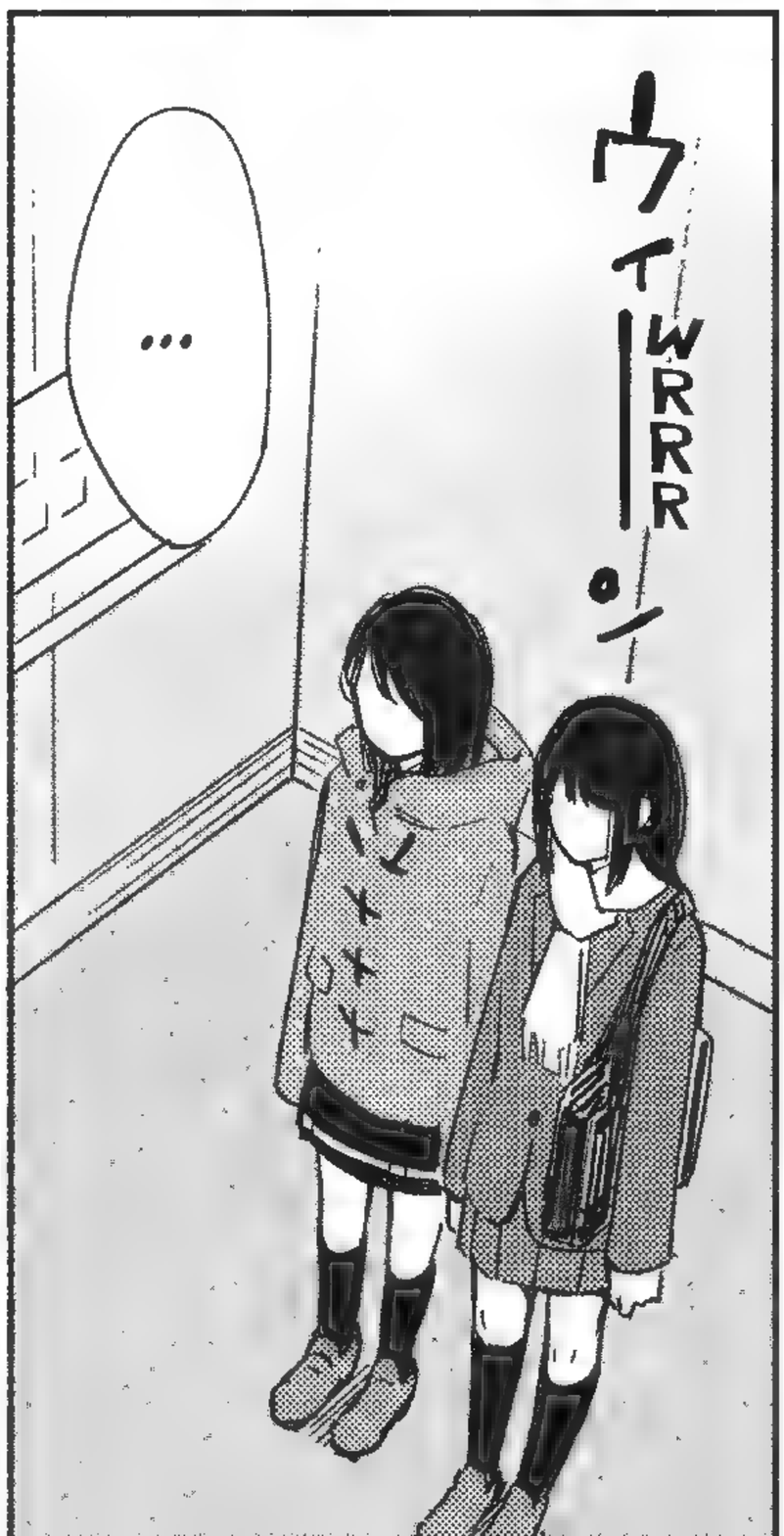
UM... I GUESS I'LL SEE HER OFF, THEN?

WAS THAT THE GIRL YOU'RE DATING?









FEEL BETTER?

YES. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

SO, WHAT'S UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SQUEEZE...

I'M HAPPY TO LISTEN, IF YOU DON'T MIND TELL-ING ME...

...

AND THAT SOMEONE... IS, WELL... CHLOE.

ACTU-ALLY...

...I'M SEEING SOMEONE RIGHT NOW.

...YES.

Since when...?

KURO-CHAN?!

Huh ?!

I LIKE YOU, CHLOE.

WE'RE DATING. OR AT LEAST... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

MUNCH MONCH

OH, HEY, THANKS.

HMM...

I GUESS I KIND OF LIKE YOU (TODAY).

UM! CHLOE!

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME?!

WHAM!

THEN... IF YOU DON'T HATE THE IDEA...

...I'D... LIKE YOU TO BE MY GIRL-FRIEND.

UH...

SHINE

SURE.

I'LL DATE YOU.

ONLY WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT, THOUGH. IF THAT'S COOL WITH YOU.

SINCE THEN, WE'VE BEEN IN THIS KIND OF AMBIGUOUS RELATIONSHIP.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS STRANGE, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO ASK HER AGAIN.

STILL, NOT ONCE HAS SHE EVER...

...*FELT* LIKE IT.

FIDGET

FIDGET

CHLOE NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN ROMANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

...SO I'VE STARTED TO FEEL LIKE SHE JUST SAID THAT TO DISMISS ME...

STILL...

...SHE DOES ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE A GREAT TIME HEARING ABOUT *MY* LOVE LIFE...

...SO I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SHE'S ENTIRELY UNINTER-ESTED.

HMM... KURO-CHAN DOESN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT HERSELF.

SO WHEN IT COMES TO ROMANCE SPECIFI-CALLY, I HAVE NO CLUE...

HAS SHE SAID ANYTHING TO YOU, UTA-SAN?

YEAH...

Ohh?

UTA-SAN, ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, TOO?

OR, I GUESS... I *WAS.*

IT WAS SOMEONE SO FAR OUT OF MY REACH, THERE WAS NO POINT IN TRYING.

SO I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON IT.

EVEN SO...

...AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP.

SO KEEP ON TRYING!

I *DO* THINK THAT YOUR LOVE CAN MAKE IT...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

...CONVINCING, COMING FROM ME.

MAYBE NOT...

AND YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT, CHLOE?

SOONER OR LATER, PEOPLE JUST FORGET IT, AND TOSS IT ASIDE.

LOVE IS A TEMPORARY FEELING.

If I Could Reach You

If I Could Reach You

I HATE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE BASED ON ROMANCE.

I KNOW FOR A FACT...

...THAT ETERNAL LOVE...

...IS A FANTASY THAT WILL NEVER COME TRUE.

TRASH

Chapter 9



HE WAS NOTHING BUT A RICH, HOPELESS ROMANTIC.

YOU'D THINK MY FATHER, A MAN OF WEALTH, WOULD BE YOUR TYPICAL EGOTISTICAL JERK WHO PLACES MONEY ABOVE ALL ELSE... BUT HE WASN'T.

AND SO, AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT EVEN SURE...

...WHICH ONE OF THEM COULD BE CALLED MY "MOTHER."

...BUT NO, HE WAS EVEN WORSE—HE WAS COMPLETELY SERIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING.

IT MIGHT'VE EVEN BEEN BETTER IF HE WAS SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE PLAYBOY...

Petition for Divorce

NO MATTER HOW OLD HE GOT, HE NEVER GOT ANY LESS LOVESICK.

EVERY SINGLE TIME, HE ACTED LIKE IT WAS AN ENCOUNTER WRITTEN IN THE STARS, LIKE HE HAD MET HIS SOULMATE. AGAIN AND AGAIN, HE DIVORCED AND REMARRIED.

...AND IT WAS IRRITATING PRETENDING TO BE A HAPPY FAMILY...

SO I THINK IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT I CHOSE TO LIVE ALONE.

Parental Consent for Minors

I GOT TIRED OF BEING JERKED AROUND...

AND SO IN THE END, I THINK THAT LOVE...

...BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY SPEAKING...

...IS A FLEETING TRANSACTION— ONE FORMED ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF ATTAINING A MOMENTARY PLEASURE.

...BUT I'VE COME TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S A FEELING I DON'T EVER NEED...

I'M NOT SAYING THAT THAT'S A BAD THING...

...THAT I'D RATHER REVEL IN MY OWN SOLITARY FREEDOM, NOT TIED DOWN TO ANYONE...

SO I'VE CAST IT ALL AWAY.

TRASH

THANKS FOR TAKIN' HER.

I'M BACK.

OH? WHERE'S KONATSU-SAN?

Sorry, got a call from a guy!

See ya!

YOU JUST MISSED HER. SHE SUDDENLY HAD TO GO.

SAID SHE'LL BE BACK TOMOR-ROW.

YEAH, DESPITE HER LOOKS, SHE'S STRANGELY LOYAL...

SHE'S PRETTY THOUGHT-FUL, HUH?

IT'S GETTIN' LATE.

YOU SHOULD TAKE A BATH, TOO.

YOU WORK...

...IN THE MORNING TOMORROW, DON'T YOU?

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO STAY OVER...?

W... WELL, IT'S...

WHAT'S UP?

MIYABI TOLD YOU, DIDN'T SHE?

AH...

NOW YOU'RE GETTIN' SHY ABOUT IT...?

?

SWAY

...

LET'S TALK ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE BATH.

SPLSH

BLURBLE

BLURBLE

THANKS FOR WAITING.

Welcome back.

OVER HERE.

D-DON'T MIND IF I DO, THEN...

Is this okay...?

OH, UH...

...MIYABI-SAN IS WORRIED BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER.

SO...

YOU *DO...* LIKE HER, RIGHT?

...

WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE AGREED ON.

JUST TO CONFIRM, YOU TWO REALLY ARE DATING, THEN?

UGH... HOW MUCH DID SHE TELL YOU?

I GOT THE GIST OF YOUR CURRENT RELATION-SHIP...

GOT-CHA.

I DO LIKE HER.

BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THE SAME KIND OF AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER.

DO YOU LIKE HER AS A FRIEND, THEN?

THAT'S... NOT IT, EITHER.

I'VE NEVER REALLY CONSIDERED HER TO BE A FRIEND.

THAT SAID, I DEFINITELY DON'T SEE HER AS MY ROMANTIC PARTNER.

I JUST DON'T THINK I'M PRACTICALLY SUITED TO BEING ANYONE'S PARTNER.

I'M APPARENTLY A LITTLE CUT OFF WHEN IT COMES TO HAVING ROMANTIC FEELINGS.

...I WONDER IF I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DATE SOMEONE I'M FOND OF, WHEN I DON'T HAVE THOSE KINDS OF DESIRES.

STILL...

EVEN EARLY ON, I WISHED THAT I COULD DATE HER WITHOUT THE INSECURITIES... I THOUGHT MAYBE...

...I'D END UP REGRETTING IT ALL. AM I THE WEIRD ONE FOR THINKING THAT?

...AND EVENTUALLY, I COME TO MEAN NOTHING TO HER?

WHAT IF MIYABI'S FEELINGS FOR ME WERE TO FADE WITH EACH PASSING MOON...

I CAN'T... ANSWER THAT FOR YOU.

I THINK MIYABI-CHAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

IF YOU JUST KEEP BOTTLING THIS UP, NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE.

SO, YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE TO TELL HER...

...THAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS A WHOLE LOT.

LAY OFF ALREADY.

THAT SMILE YOU GOT PLASTERED ON YOUR FACE IS STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT.

...WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HUH?

G'NIGHT.

YAWWN...

AH!

UGH, HOW DID IT GET THIS LATE?!

MORNING!

MM...

MM...

I MADE A NICE BREAKFAST FOR YOU, SO EAT UP!

Hope it suits your tastes...

THANKS ...

MEW

SPRRT!

I'M OFF TO WORK NOW!

MM...

FOR... MIYABI...

...SERIOUSLY, UTA?

BLEH

BLACK COFFEE? YOU TRYIN' TO START A FIGHT...?

BLEH

I-ALSO PREFER BREAD WITH BREAKFAST...

AND I HATE FISH...

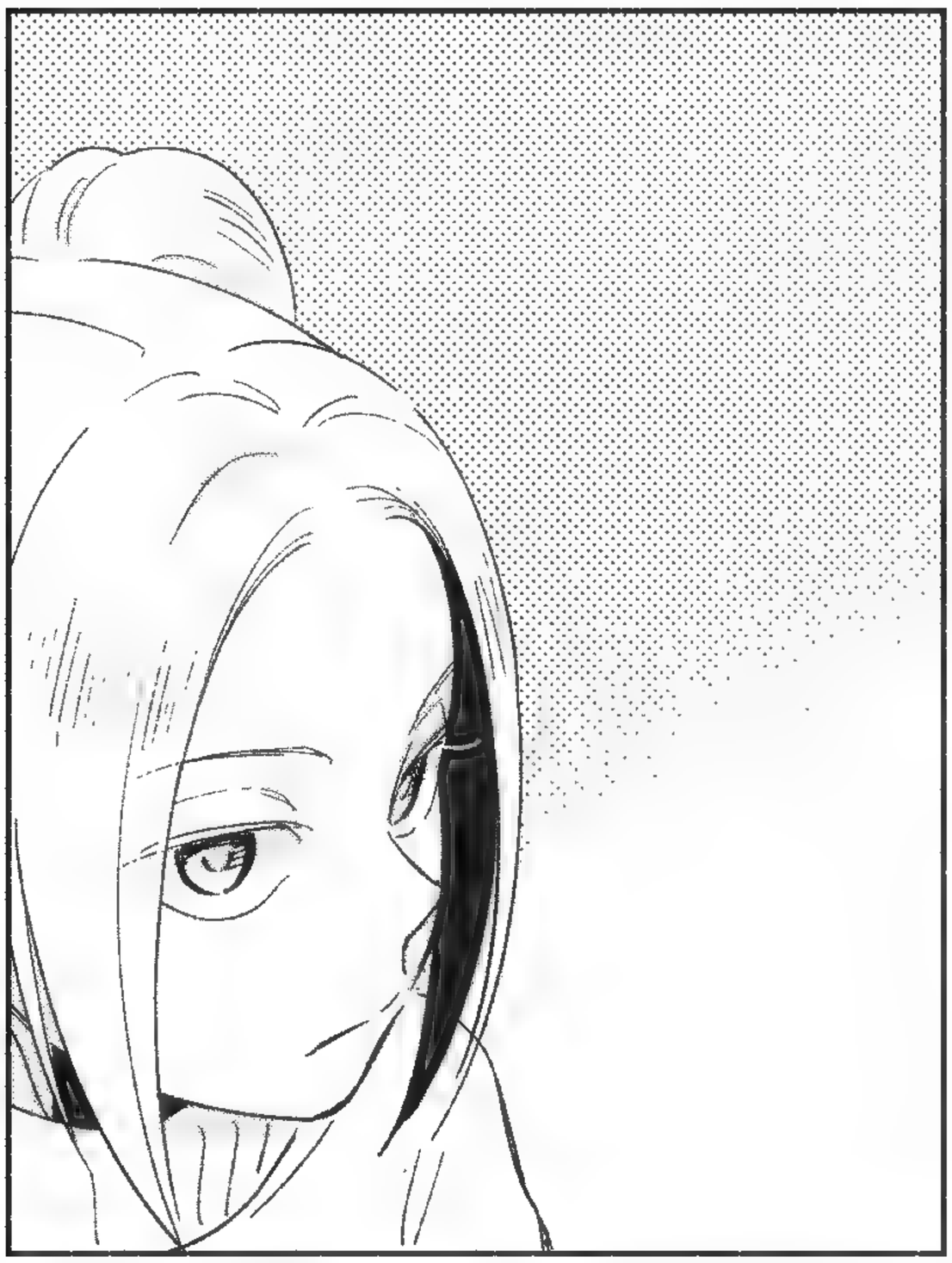
ALSO...

...HOW AM I S'POSED TO EAT WITHOUT A FORK?

I WOULD NEVER HAVE TO SPELL THIS STUFF OUT FOR MIYABI...

UGH, GEEZ, FIGURE IT OUT ALREADY.


Café
WELCOME!




OH...


OF COURSE ...
THE USUAL, PLEASE.

HEY...

...I WANNA TALK TO YOU. YOU GOT A MINUTE?

!

SO, UH...

...

NOD

?!

MIYABI-CHAN SORT OF BEGGED ME TO BE...

A-HA...

WHY EXACTLY ARE *YOU* HERE, UTA?

I'M STILL NOT READY TO BE DUMPED! I CAN'T BE ALONE! PLEASE STAY HERE!!!

CHAPTER 7

I...

I THINK I MIGHT ACTUALLY EXCUSE MYSELF AFTER ALL...

Y-YOU CAN'T!

IS THAT NOT WHY I'M HERE...?

AND JUST WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE I WANTED...

...TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT OUR RELATION-SHIP IS.

...AND NOT CONSIDER-ING YOUR FEELINGS.

...BY GIVING YOU SUCH HALF-ASSED REPLIES...

ANYWAY, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU NERVOUS...

FIRST OFF...

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN PERFORMATIVE COUPLE-HOOD.

GWIP

...COME TO TWO CONCLU-SIONS.

I HAVE PERSON-ALLY...

AND SECOND ...

I'M HOPELESS WITHOUT YOU.

BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, YOU BECAME INDISPENSABLE TO MY EVERYDAY.

I'M SORRY IF IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M JUST SAYING WHAT'S CONVENIENT FOR ME...

...WHAT IF WE TRIED BEING TOGETHER IN A WAY THAT'S UNIQUE TO US?

NOT AS FRIENDS, NOT AS LOVERS, NOT AS FAMILY– JUST... *US.*

FOR NOW, INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT HOW TO DEFINE IT...

...WOULD THAT BE OKAY?

YEAH.

OH, UTA-SAN!

YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS, MIYABI-CHAN.

Good morning!

MIYABI.

THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.

PLEASE, I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

WHEN DID YOU...?

WHA?! CHLOE!

QUIT YAPPIN' AND MAKE ME SOME DESSERT.

...THAN SIMPLY WEARING THE LABEL, "LOVER."

BEING INDISPEN-SABLE TO THE ONE YOU LOVE ...

...MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WAY NICER...

Special order for you, your favorite.

Whoooa.

TO BE INDISPENSABLE...

...TO THE ONE YOU LOVE...

☎ Received Messages: 4
Kaoru-san

If I Could Reach You

If I Could Reach You

Chapter 10



AROUND,
AND AROUND,
AND AROUND,
AND AROUND...

I'M TRAPPED IN
THIS SWIRLING
MAELSTROM OF
THOUGHTS...

...UNABLE
TO MOVE
FORWARD.

TIME
STOPPED
FOR ME.

UNABLE TO
FIND MY FOOTING,
I'VE BEEN FEELING
MORE HOPELESS THAN
I COULD HAVE EVER
IMAGINED.

EVEN
IF I'VE
ACCEPTED
THAT MY
LOVE IS
OVER..!

...THE AFFECTION
STILL LINGERS...

...AND I
CAN'T BE
AT EASE
ANYWHERE.

...BUT THE COLD, HARD REALITY KEEPS WEIGHING ME DOWN.

STILL, I'VE BEEN CLINGING TO THE FAINT HOPE THAT, SO LONG AS I KEPT LOOKING FORWARD...

...SOMEDAY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD, TOO...

I FROZE THAT CLOCK ON PURPOSE. BUT EVEN IN THAT BRIEF MOMENT WHEN I FORCED ITS HANDS TO START TICKING AGAIN...

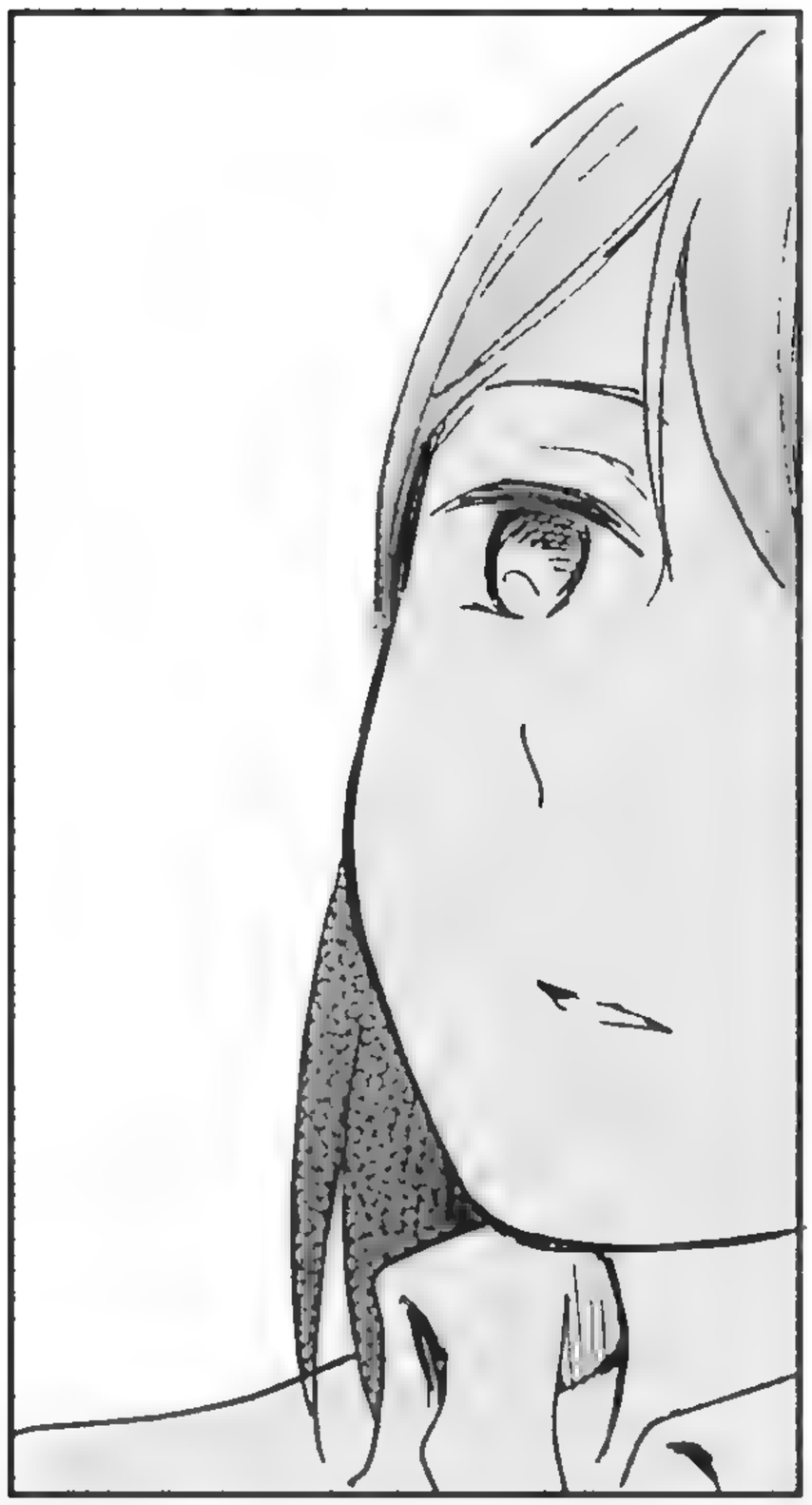
...THE WORLD I SAW BEFORE ME WAS GRAY.

"BEING INDISPENSABLE TO THE ONE YOU LOVE" ...

I WANT TO BE ENGULFED BY TECHNICOLOR IMAGES, TOO.

IT MUST BE NICE.

I'M JEALOUS.



...EVEN ONCE.

I WONDER IF I'VE EVER BEEN INDISPENSABLE TO KAORU-SAN...

...THAN SIMPLY WEARING THE LABEL, 'LOVER.'"

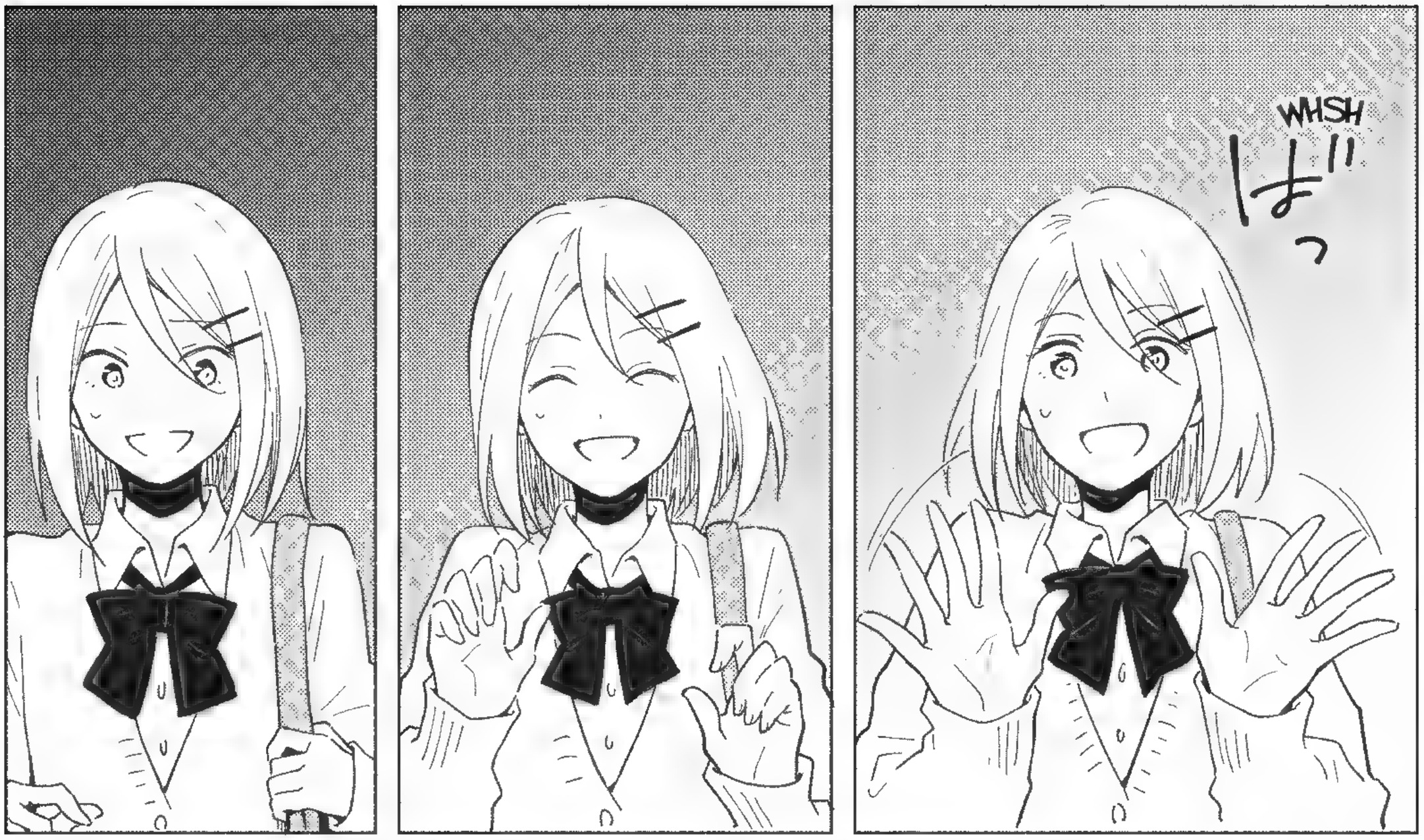
...

...MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WAY NICER"

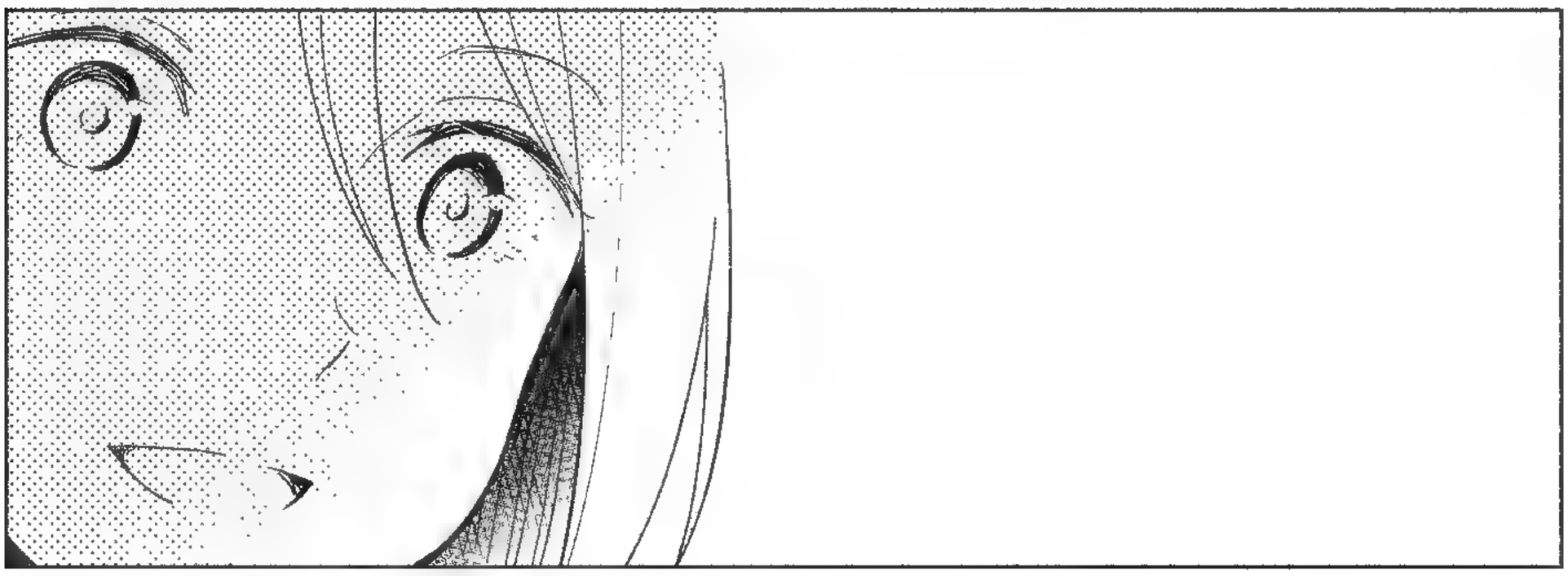


JOLT

SLIDE


WHSH
はっ



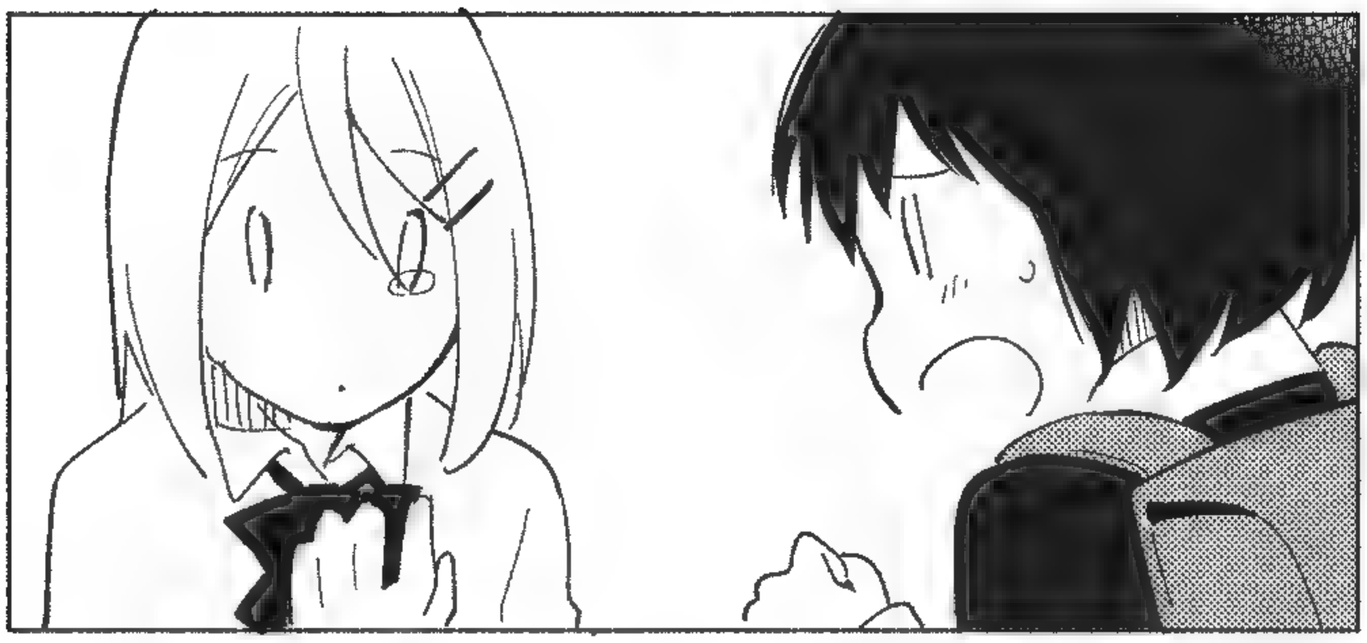




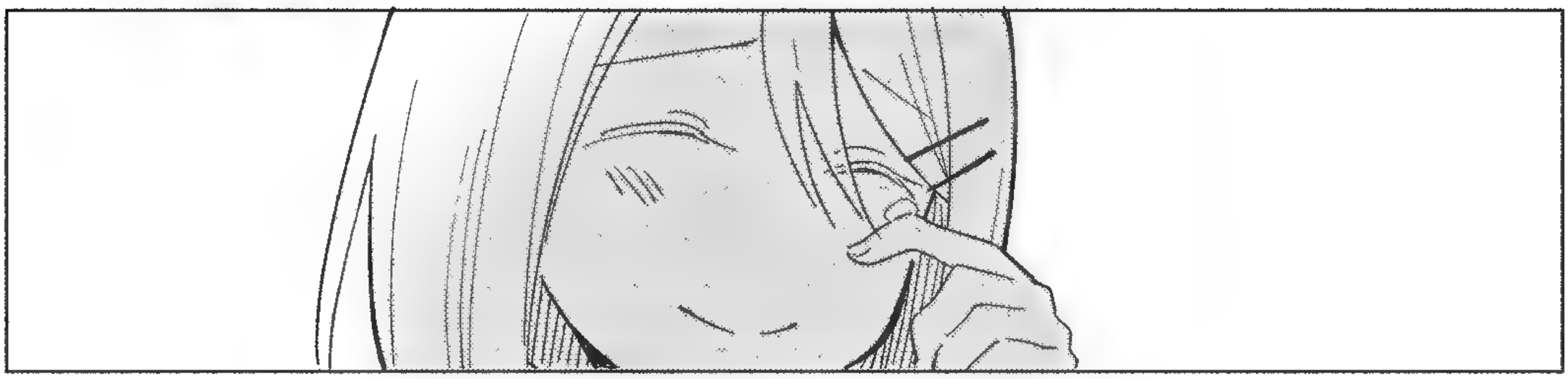

カリン
カリン




?




Magical
cheer-up
candy






SQUEEZE

…

FELL ASLEEP ON MY WORK AGAIN...

Nn...

I CAN'T LET MY ROUTINE FALL APART JUST 'CAUSE I'M ALONE!

IT'S REIICHI'S BIRTH-DAY...!

OH!

I GUESS I CAN TEXT HIM.

HE'S PROBABLY WORKING...

FSSSH

OH, HUH.

I FORGOT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO RAIN THIS AFTER-NOON.

PHEW

THAT WAS CLOSE!

ガラララ
RATTLE

UMM, LET'S SEE.

LOOKS LIKE HE ALREADY REPLIED.

Also, I was supposed to come home tomorrow night but my trip got extended a few more days, so, see ya then.

Thanks. I'll call you once things calm down after work today.

WHAT DOES "A FEW MORE DAYS" MEAN?

I WONDER IF REIICHI-KUN...

...EVER EVEN WISHES HE COULD COME HOME SOONER...

HE ALWAYS SENDS ME SUPER VAGUE MESSAGES.

...I'M LONELY.

SNIFF

!

I'M TOO GROWN UP FOR THIS.

WHAT? NO, C'MON...

WHEN DID UTA-CHAN SAY SHE WAS COMING HOME...?

RIIIING...

70

ルルルル!!

RIIIING

70

ルルルル

RIIIING

70

ルルルル

RIIIING

70

ルルルル

NOW, AS AN ADULT,
IT'S EVEN LONELIER
BEING ALONE.

YO.

YO, UTA.

GLUB

BLUB BLUB

IT'S, LIKE, REALLY OVER-FLOWING.

AAAH!!

WHAT'RE YOU SPACIN' OUT FOR?

SPLSHH

UH.

HM

SORRY...

I WAS JUST THINK-ING.

YES.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLI-MENT...?

THAT EXPRESSION SUITS YOU MUCH BETTER THAN FORCING A SMILE ALL THE TIME.

HUH?

THAT'S A NICE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

YOU SEEM SO MUCH LIVELIER.

IT MEANS YOU'RE FACING THINGS HONESTLY, HEAD ON.

...IT HELPED ME REALIZE SOME THINGS.

WHEN I TALKED TO YOU THAT TIME...

HEY, THANKS.

FOR WHAT?

FSHHH

IT WOULD BE EASIER IF I WAS AWAY FROM KAORU-SAN—

IT *HAS* BEEN EASIER...

...BUT THEN THAT WOULD LEAVE ME...

...COMPLETELY EMPTY.

...I SEE.

EVEN IF IT BOGS ME DOWN WITH HEAVY THOUGHTS...

...I'VE REALIZED THAT'S STILL BETTER THAN HAVING NOTHING.

Yarn Café

SEE YOU SOON!

I'M GOING ON BREAK!

CREAK

HUH?

H...

HELLO? ONEE-CHAN?!

WHAT'S GOING ON? I'VE GOT A BUNCH OF MESSAGES FROM KAORU-SAN.

UTA-CHAA-AAAN!

WHOA!

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?!

TH-THAT'S TRUE... I KNOW THAT, BUT...

Sniffle

!

Huh?!

I TOLD YOU I'D BE HOME AFTER EXAMS WERE OVER, THOUGH...

BOTH YOU AND REIICHI-KUN HAVE LEFT ME HERE ALL ALOOO-OONE!

EVERY-THING...!

...I'M CRYING BECAUSE I'M LONELY.

...

ONEE-CHAN, ARE YOU CRY... ING?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

...I KNOW, IT'S PATHETIC. I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS.

BUT I JUST CAN'T...

...UM?

EVER SINCE THE DAY MOTHER DIED...

...I GET ANXIOUS WHEN I'M ALONE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

SAY...

ANY CHANCE YOU COULD COME HOME TODAY...?

REIICHI-KUN SAID THAT HE WAS GONNA BE AWAY A LITTLE LONGER FOR WORK...

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T BE HIS REPLACE-MENT.

SO, TURNS OUT THE ONLY TIMES WHEN I'M NECESSARY TO KAORU-SAN...

...ARE TIMES LIKE THIS...

...?

OF COURSE NOT.

UTA-CHAN, SOMETIMES I JUST WANT TO HAVE *YOU* BY MY SIDE.

EVEN IF NOTHING WILL EVER COME OF MY LOVE, MY FEELINGS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

SO, I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO CHANGE–

I'LL COME HOME AFTER WORK TODAY.

ALL RIGHT.

I'LL HAVE DINNER READY FOR YOU, THEN!

REALLY?!

WHAT D'YOU WANT TO EAT?

ANYTHING THAT YOU'RE GOOD AT MAKING, ONEE-CHAN.

CHANGE IN A WAY THAT'LL BE HONEST TO MY FEELINGS.

OH...

...RIGHT, THERE WAS A MESSAGE FROM REIICHI-KUN EARLIER, TOO.

SHOPPING TOOK ME A LOT LONGER THAN I THOUGHT.

WONDER IF I'LL HAVE DINNER READY BEFORE SHE GETS HOME.

BEEP

Reiichi-kun

HEY.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

HELLO?

KAORU?

WHAT'S UP?

FSSSH

GRIP

SLIP

HIS TRIP...

REIICHI... KUN.

...WAS WITH RISAKO.

WHY...?

KSSH-ZSH-ZSH-ZWHUD

WHAT...?

To be continued.

If I Could Reach You

GASP

SURE, THANKS!

SHOULD I PUT THIS IN THE CLOSET?

THIS HAPPENED WHEN I WAS HELPING KAORU-SAN CLEAN UP HER ROOM.

FWUMP

HUH?

ナッ

OH! NO! WAI...!

YEAH...

Owww...

YOU OKAY?

SORRY, THAT CLOSET IS SO MESSY...

CRUUUSH

WOW, I'M SURPRISED.

Ahaha...

I MEAN...

AT FIRST, I WASN'T INTERESTED IN THEM AT ALL.

CLUTTER

NYANTENDO

WELL... KINDA.

...THERE'S A LOT OF GAMES HERE.

ARE THESE YOURS?

SOMY

CLUTTER

...THERE WAS A PERIOD WHERE I HAD A LOT OF TIME ON MY HANDS.

BUT, WHEN I BECAME A FULL-TIME HOUSEWIFE, JUST AFTER WE GOT MARRIED...

GRNK

Butt

OW...!

SIGH...

THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ON TV, EITHER- I'M BORED ...

20:31

REIICHI-KUN'S OUT LATE AGAIN TONIGHT.

IT'S THAT GAME CONSOLE REIICHI-KUN WASTED ALL THAT MONEY ON...

GEEZ...

AT LEAST PUT THE STUPID THING AWAY.

...but I really don't get what's so fun about them.

Reiichi-kun's always been endlessly obsessed with them...

Video games, huh?

Gaga...

KA-CHIK

KA-CHIK

...Might be a fun way to kill some time, at least.

BEEP

Glad you stopped, then...

...IS THAT WHAT HAPPEN-ED...?

IS...

THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY.

AFTER IT STARTED TEARING MY LIFE APART, I SEALED THEM ALL AWAY.

AFTER THAT, WELL... IN RETROSPECT, I ENDED UP TOTALLY ADDICTED, MYSELF.

Ruth-less →

HUH?! OH... IF YOU WOULD, THEN...

HUP!

I'LL GO AHEAD AND GET THEM ALL BOXED UP FOR YOU, THEN, SO IT'LL BE EASIER TO GET RID OF.

HONESTLY, EVEN WHEN I PUT THEM ASIDE, THEY STILL GET IN MY WAY. I SHOULD JUST SELL THEM.

GRIP

...KAORU-SAN?

YES, SORRY.

HUH?! YEAH, SOR-RY...

KAORU-SAN?

THIS IS OKAY, RIGHT?

FWIP

GAME

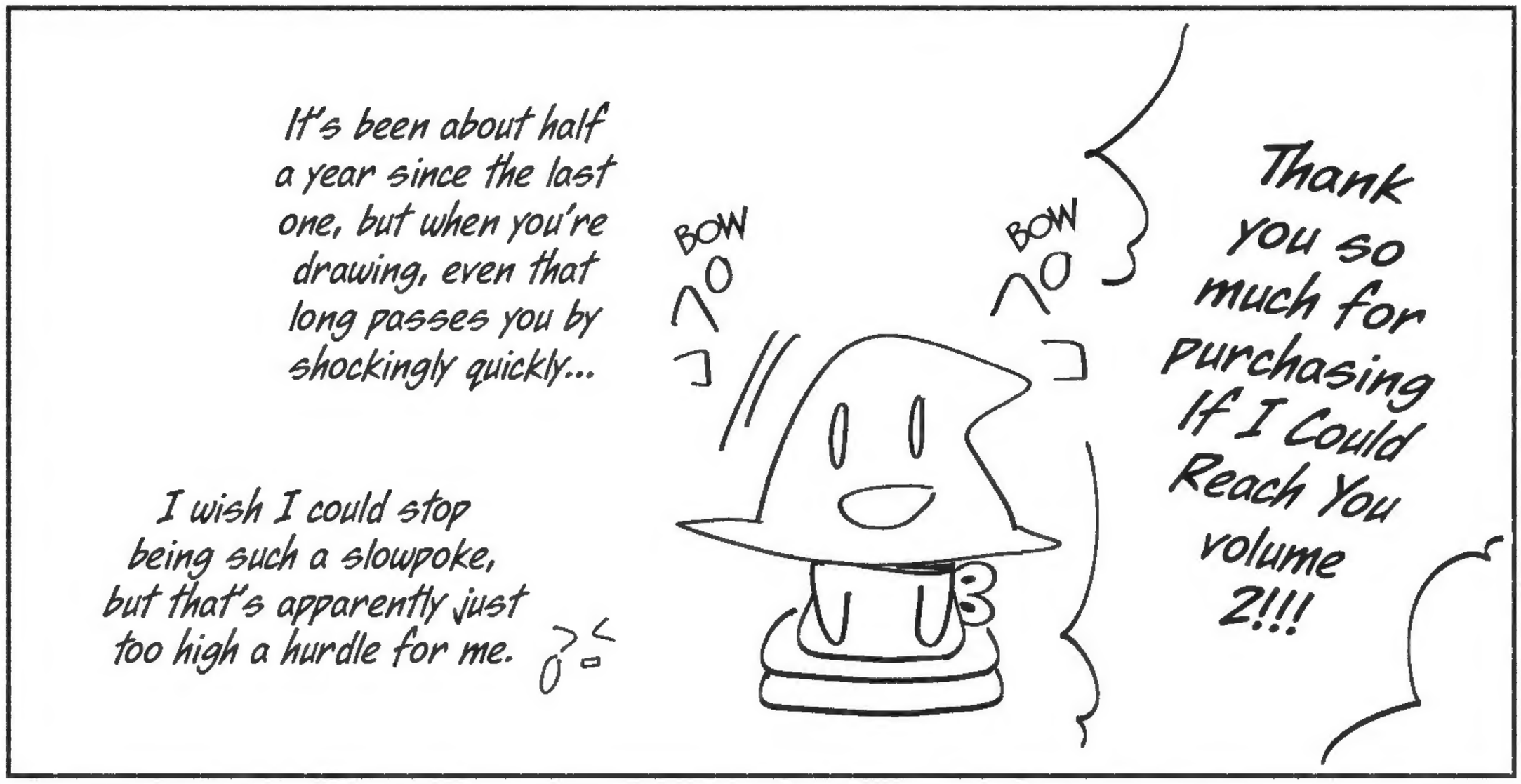
SQUEEZE...

GAME

GRAB

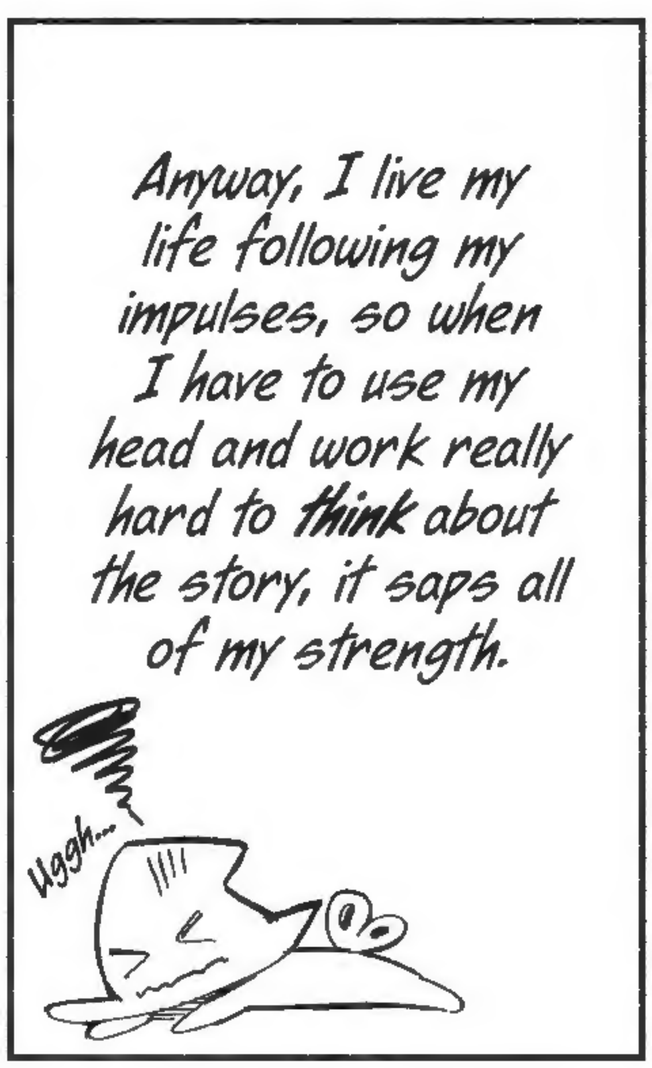
Afterword


tMnR

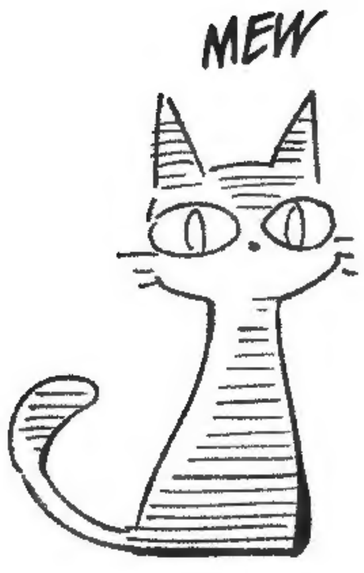

It's been about half a year since the last one, but when you're drawing, even that long passes you by shockingly quickly...
I wish I could stop being such a slowpoke, but that's apparently just too high a hurdle for me.
BOW
BOW
Thank you so much for purchasing If I Could Reach You volume 2!!!


Anyway, that's kinda how I'll be grinding for the next volume. See you later!
Bye Bye


Though sometimes I get a bit too relaxed and my mind goes totally blank.
So I've started visiting cat cafes and rabbit cafes and aquariums and such a lot more often.
Eheh... So big...


Anyway, I live my life following my impulses, so when I have to use my head and work really hard to think about the story, it saps all of my strength.
Uggh...





Special Thanks

Editor Saito-san
Kawatani Design-san
Everyone Else Involved
A-chan
and my Dearest Readers...

If I Could Reach You 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2017 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781646591398

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Diana Taylor
Lettering: Jennifer Skarupa
Editing: Haruko Hashimoto
Kodansha Comics edition cover design by Phil Balsman